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A Rule that Still Meets the Case.

I have no sort of sympathy with the Republican party because of that act, and because it justified and sustained it. After such an act I have no desire to sustain the Republican party in any way. I would not vote for a party that would carry through such a fraud. I think Mr. Haves was elected by a fraud, and I do not mean to have it said that at the next election I had forgotten it. I do not say that Mr. Hayes committed the fraud, but it was committed by his party. I have no enmity to Mr. Hayes, but after the fraud by which he became President I sould not vote for any person put up for President on the Republican side who did not disavow the fraud committed. I would not support any member of that party who had any sort of mixture with that fraud. I feel that the count-Ing out is just as much a fraud now as at the time it was perpetrated.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

Light Wanted.

Light is badly wanted on JOHN SHERMAN'S management of the vast refunding operations, which were effected by means of syndicates, of which the First National Bank of this city, with a capital of only half a million of dollars, was one of the principal members, and, in the end, the largest benefleiary. Indeed, it was the only national bank that appeared to be associated with the different syndicates. The syndicates were allowed a commission of pne-fourth of one per cent, upon subscriptions of one to ten millions, and one-tenth of one per cent. additional on subscriptions above ten millions, but there was another and a much greater source of profit which JOHN SHERMAN'S pet bank, by the advantage of its connections with the department, enjoyed above all others. By an arrangement which the Secretary alone could make, the four per cent. bonds were delivered to this bank to the full extent of its subscription, without any security whatever beyond a so-called certificate of deposit. Three months were allowed from the time of delivery for payment of the bonds. In other words, the bank got three months' credit on its immense subscription, and three months' interest on bonds delivered and not paid for.

At one time the First National Bank held one hundred and eighty millions of these four per cents in its vaults, without the color of security. That immense capital was only part of the loans made to it by the Secretary of the Treasury, upon which interest was drawn for three months, and which were exchanged for other bonds at large profit. In view of this marked favoritism it is not surpriging that in three years it should show a round surplus of two millions, upon an original capital of half a million, after declaring a dividend last January of 100 per ent. In addition to a quarterly dividend o 10 per cent., and should be able to erect a **Building** estimated to cost \$1,500,000.

In the debate on the Funding bill before the recess, Mr. RANDALL made some statements which deserve serious attention, be fore any legislation on this subject is passed:

"I have never been able to find out from the Treasury Department the amount of money paid in the way of ble interest. There was during 1879 refunded about \$740,000,000 of the debt of the United States. I lear from a report of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department, and issued under the authority of the Sec retary of the Treasury, that in 1879 there were \$83,773. 778.50 of money due to bondholders according to the rate of interest on the face of the bonds, and yet on a prior page of that same report I find there was actually paid n account of interest during the same year \$105,327,940 The difference is \$21,554,170.50. I can account for a par of this difference. I find there is not included the amount of interest paid on account of Pacific Bailroad bonds, which is \$3,600,000, or thereabout. I do not know what amount of mission was paid on the \$740,000,000 exchanged of redeemed during the said year; but at one-half of one per cent, the highest commission allowed by law, it would be only \$3,700,000, and the two together would

make \$7,500,000, or thereabout. There is still an amount of over \$14,000,000 that annot account for in any other way than as having been aid out on double interest account during that year. This a a large sum. Perhaps the gentleman from New York san tell me what amount of interest was paid in 1870

ander the head of double interest.

"Mr. FERNANDO WOOD-No; I cannot answer tha guestion. I am not informed as to the exact amount. have been trying to get the information from the department."

These are extraordinary statements coming from the Speaker and the Chairman of the Ways and Means. Here is a matter of fourteen millions of interest involved in the refunding operations of last year, about which no explanation is given by the Secretary of the Treasury, and which is not explained in the public accounts. Who go those fourteen millions, and by what process were they pocketed? These questions are now entirely pertinent; and full answers ought to be demanded and furnished before another step is taken in the pending bill.

There is no extreme hurry for that bill. The bonds falling due nominally next May and June are redormable at the option of the Government. The measure of refunding, with assets in the Treasury aggregating \$260,000,000, and an increase of receipts from customs and internal revenue alone equal to \$68,000,000 for the present year over the last, ought to be well considered in all

Its bearings, present and prospective. Better sacrifice a temporary difference of interest, which is the main argument for haste, than to cover up any doubtful transactions or to open the door to corrupt combinations hereafter. The country is entitled to know every detail connected with this refunding business, by which one bank with small capital, under the favor of John SHERMAN, has been enriched beyond all precedent, and without any outlay of capital. The Secretary owes it to himself, and to the trust with which he is charged, to make this matter clear; and the fact that he omitted to do so in his reports is by no

means satisfactory. As he failed in that duty, the House of Representatives is now bound to make a thorough inquiry into all the facts, and to expose them to the public view, no matter who may be touched by the develop-Mr. RANDALL and Mr. Wood are in position to ask for this information in such

bring out the beneficiaries of the double interest, or at least such of them as are not concealed behind convenient dummies.

Are There Any Centenarians ?

What is the extreme limit of age to which human beings may look forward? Does it reach or exceed a hundred years, or was Sir GEORGE CORNWALL LEWIS right in affirming that no alleged case of centenarianism would bear close investigation? This curious and interesting question might be answered by any one who would have the patience to trace the history of those so-called centeparians who are natives of central Europe, and of whose births and marriages there must needs be some mention in the official registers. Nor is there any doubt that the whole subject of longevity will be elucidated by well-tested facts when our large insurance companies have attained a long term of existence, for in the case of most applicants for policies there is a strong temptation to understate rather than magnify their age. Meanwhile this topic is discussed by physiologists and statisticians who have published a multitude of essays and compilations in almost every language of Eu rope. We find their data and conclusion summed up in the Révue Britannique.

The normal duration of man's life has been computed by deduction from comparative physiology. Buffon, in the last century, investigated the matter from this point of view, and maintained that human beings. reaching an adult age at about sixteen, should live six times that number of years, or, in other words, to ninety-six. Most physiologists prefer to accept the formula of FLOURENS, who fixed at twenty the period of man's complete development, and averred that animals in general live only five times the term required to become adult. According to this scientist, the arrival at maturity is determined by the adherence of bones to their processes. In the case of the horse this junction takes place at the age of five, and he seldom lives beyond twenty-five beef cattle mature at four, and rarely survive the age of twenty; cats become adult at eighteen months, and live somewhat longer than the ratio named would indicate that is, to the age of nine. As for man, M FLOURENS had no doubt that his life, i passed under conditions as healthful as those in which domestic animals are reared. would attain a hundred years. The English physiologist, Dr. GARDNER, accepts this theory with the caveat that the time of maturity in man varies between eighteen and twenty-one years, and that, consequently, the duration of his existence ought to range from ninety to a hundred and five. In view of his own researches touching man's normal longevity, and of the small fraction of the race which attains its natural length of years, he seems to concur it the axiom with which FLOURENS concluded his study of the subject: "Men kill them selves; they do not die."

lem by induction from observation, we find the views of FLOURENS fortified by the weight of trustworthy evidence. Here we may say that the statistics collected in the Rérue Britannique are to a large extent worthless, because no pains are taken to verify the alleged date of birth, or to establish the identity of the person. In general it may be said that instances of longevity adduced from England or the United States, or from any country where no official records of births and marriages are kept, must be viewed with peculiar suspicion. Neither need we pay any attention to the census returns based on the assertions of the centenarians themselves. If we could, indeed, trust the census, we should believe that in England alone there are nearly a thousand persons one hundred years old or upward, and that in the whole of Europe, exclusive of Russia, there are not far from four thousand such examples of long life. It is not worth while to linger on such questionable data, or on any of the legendary instances of centenarianism chronicled in ancient or modern times. It is quite possible, without resorting to such dubious testimony, to show ground for rejecting the skeptical affirmance of Sir G. C. Lewis, and for accepting the deduction from comparative physiology.

If now we try to solve the prob-

It is plain that the more consoleuous the person the less chance of deception or mistake about his age. On this account it has fairly been deemed an awkward circumstance for the believers in centenarianism that no sovereigns have lived to be a hundred years old. Only four Roman Emperors, for instance, reached the age of eighty; and out of three hundred Popes only six exceeded that term. Nevertheless, some centenarians have lived so prominently in the eye of the world that the fact of their extreme age cannot well be gainsaid. En tirely incontestable, for example, is the age of FONTENELLE, who was born in 1657 and died in 1757. In 1789 an alleged centenarian named Jacob, was exhibited to the National Assembly. The age of this man at that time may be disputed, although it was certainly an advanced one; but what is certain is that he lived twenty-five years longer. It is difficult to overthrow the evidence which ascribes to the physician Durounnel, who dedicated his book on the art of prolonging life to M. THIERS, an age of not less than one hundred and twenty years. There seems to be no doubt whatever that the famous physician BECQUEREL, for nearly fifty years a member of the Institute, who died on Jan. 20, 1878, was born on Jan. 19, 1778 Nothing, again, was easier than to verify the birth date and identity of the Baron DE Posant, an ex-Prefect, who died in 1872, at the age of one hundred and two; of M ETIENNE DE MIRVAULT, an ex-diplomat. who died in 1878, at the age of one hundred and two and a half; of M. JEAN TROPLONG, ex-officer of marines, who died in the same year after reaching his one hundredth birthday. Among other recent and apparently authentic cases supplied by France is that of Count John Frederick de Waldeck, who died in 1875, a little more than a hundred years old. The Count, who afterward became a well-known archæologist, had in his youth been a page of MARIE ANTOI-NETTE, and in 1794 served under BONAPARTE in Italy. We will add that in 1876 an aunt of the physiologist FLOURENS himself, Mme. DE GRANDVIGNE, whose history could be traced with the greatest exactitude, died

omplete possession of her faculties. Passing to Austria and Germany, we find a Prague a remarkable instance of longevity where verification was easy, and where con siderable pains seems to have been taken to establish the fact. This is the case of Mme. FIEDELER DE HULSENSTEIN, who died in 1877, and who was born, it is said, in 1757. It is not apparently disputed that this lady inher youth was a maid of honor to the Empress Maria Theresa. Neither has it been contested that Field Marshal HADETsky, the hero of Novara, was nearly one hundred years old when he died, or that the Lieutenant-General DE Kunst, who died at Munich in 1877, had reached the age of ninety-nine. In Sweden, also, the military profession has furnished a genuine cente narian, namely, Baron CEDERSTROEM, ex-

at the age of one hundred and six, in the

remarkable case is furnished by the pension list of Russia. A young man entered the service of the State in 1782 at the age of wenty-one, and fifty years later was retired and pensioned. This person was still living and in receipt of his pension in the month of March, 1878. In December, 1879, died a well-known Polish gentleman and landowner, Nicholas Budziszewski, sald to be one hundred and ten years old. There may be some doubt touching the precise date of his birth, but he must have been a centenarian, for he was a member of a corps of cadets formed at Warsaw by the last King of Poland, STANISLAUS PONIATOWSKI Another unquestionable centenarian is furnished by Poland, viz., Count Porocky, who when he died in 1878, was in receipt of annuities amounting to \$80,000. In this case very careful investigations had been made regarding the date of the applicant's birth before the terms of purchase for the unusu ally large annuities had been fixed.

There have been some recent instances of apparently genuine centenarianism in Great Britain. One is that of Canon BRADON of Southampton, who in 1877 received the Queen's congratulations on his one hundredth birthday. Another example was the Rev. JAMES INGHAM, who died in one of the Shetland Islands in 1879. Every date of his life could be authenticated. He was born in Aberdeenshire in 1776, and studied at Aberdeen University. What is no less noteworthy than his longevity is the fact that at the age of 80 he learned Hebrew and Jerman, and that up to his hundredth year his intellect had lost none of its vigor. Equally credible, because carefully verifled, is the case of Mrs. WEBB, the widow of deputy licutement of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, who died in 1879 at the age of 101. With these instances may be coupled the results of the investigation of 82 alleged cases of centenarianism brought out by the census of the Canadian Dominion in 1875. An experienced genealogist was employed to rigorously sift the history of these persons, and it turned out that there were only thirteen veritable centenarians and supra-centenarians in the whole category. Three were 100 years old, two 101 and 102 respectively, six others 103, while one woman had reached the age of 109, and one man that of 113. As regards the last two persons, the evidence of identity

was not altogether satisfactory. From the régime followed by these gen uine centenarians, a number of rules have been evolved for those who desire longevity One of the most sensible is that of the cele brated German physician, HOFFMAN. "Old people," said he, "must keep up their old habits, even the bad ones." Of FONTENELLE we are told that when asked to reveal the secret of his long existence, he replied: "At flity years of age I locked the door on all other corporeal pleasures, but kept the key of my wine cellar."

The Greatest Statesman and the Most Learned Man.

We always regard it as a duty to gratify and so far as we can to satisfy, any craving for useful knowledge which may be diplayed by our multitude of correspondents An inquisitive mind, provided it seeks for information of real value, deserves encouragement, and its questions should no more be left unanswered than the demands of the physically hungry for food.

Therefore when a young friend in town sends us the following inquiries we feel called upon to answer them, though they may seem rather foolish. We hope also that we shall be able to offer him some usefu suggestions:

" He kind enough to answer me the following questi apartially. Wao is the greatest political crater and atesman, and who is the most learned man in the

We will first suggest to our young friend that it would have been more polite, as it would certainly have been safe, for him to assume that we would give him impartial replies. However, that does not matter now, and we only refer to the subject in order to offer him a hint to always put his written or spoken requests in the mospolite language he can select.

There is no term which is used more loose ly, young friend, than greatness, in its application to men. In truth, there are no great men. When the mass were ignorant and stupid, great men were possible; but education and progress always level upward. Besides, in a philosophical sense it is impossible for a being so hampered physically and intellectually as a man, to be altogether great. One man may be superior to another, and superior to th mass of his contemporaries or the average of men in all times; but he is not in every respect their superior. He does not stand alone among men as a great and perfectly developed character. He may have abilities which gain for him a mastery over others that puts him in a position where he is idealized as a hero by those who do not know him intimately. He may have what we call genius, which gives him a deeper insight than is commonly the possession of men; but that advantage is apt to be balanced by weaknesses of some other kind deserving only of reprobation. People who live in close proximity to men we call great are not the ones, as a rule, who hold them in the highest veneration. They see too nearly the flaws in their characters.

But some men do certainly surpass, and far surpass, the average of mankind in special abilities or in moral elevation. They have better learned the lesson of life, and therefore are wiser philosophers. They have more powerful and more carefully exercised brains, and hence intellectual work which would appall the ordinary thinker comes as easy to them as the handling of the hammer to the brawny blacksmith with muscles hardened by use. They may be capable of greater concentration because of the force of habit and a better inheritance of intel lect. They may have learned to deal with large affairs with less nervous friction and mental exhaustion than the petty details of life produce in the run of men. They may have an intellectual dexterity and an apti tude of expression in language or in art which have their counterpart in the natural mechanical skill of other people.

But, as a rule, those whom we call great are so because they are industrious, patient, studious, and are employed in the work for which they are exactly fitted, and upon which they can most easily and most efficiently bring to bear the sum of their facul ties. They have found the employment for which they were created, and the longer they pursue it the more capable they become of performing it.

Some men may, therefore, be relatively greater than others, just as all intelligent and reasoning men are greater than idiots; but no man who ever lived was wholly great, for the human machine, in even its highest development, is of limited power; and we all inherit, along with traits and abilities which make us capable of being better than we are, other traits and tendencies which go far to handicap us. To make wholly great man, you would have had to start the training of a stock from the be ginning of the world, and to have possessed a way as to cover the whole ground and to | Minister of War, who died in 1878. Another | all along far more scientific theories as to

human breeding than those to which we yet However, we know what our young friend

neans. He means who is the political orator and statesman who deservedly stands first among orators and statesmen, and who is the most learned man in the United States. The answer is that there are no such individuals living. There is no statesman and orator who stands head and shoulders above all the rest; and the two capacities, that for oratory and that for statesmanship, do not necessarily, nor indeed do they often, go together in one man GAMBETTA is a great orator, one of the greatest in the world, and he is exhibiting a wisdom in statesmanship of which he once was not believed to be the possessor. Yet you could hardly put GAMBETTA first, for you would have to make qualifications in his case; and, moreover, he has not yet been fully tried. The Earl of BEACONSFIELD IS a very remarkable orator and statesman, and vet in him we find the glitter of surface qualities rather than the ring of solid metal. He is more a wonderfully adroit politician than a great statesman. GLAD-STONE is a man of extraordinary eloquence of much versatility, and of a pretty com prehensive mind; but as a practica statesman he is often found and has an eccentricity which renders him an unsafe guide. BISMARCK is not an orator, but he is a statesman and a man of remarkable character and intellect. Yet he has habits of self-indul gence which impair his capacity for work and a stubbornness which detracts from his usefulness. If our young friend was with BISMARCK day in and day out, as a clos companion, he would very likely think himself his superior in some, and some very

important, qualities. Coming to our own country, if we wer asked to pick out a real statesman who had demonstrated his superiority to all others we should at once select SAMUEL J. TILDEN He is head and shoulders above the rest We have many politicians, but statesman like grasp and elevation are rare.

There is no man in the United States who s more learned than any other. The field of knowledge is now so broad that no one ndividual can compass it. There are many learned men, but they are learned only in specialties, and they can be thoroughly earned only in that way. Men of wide in formation there are by the score; but even I they were put under competitive exammation, you could not properly send any one of them up to the head.

The Whittaker Court.

The court martial ordered to meet for the trial of Cadet WHITTAKER is as fair and as avorable to the accused as he could possi bly expect; while the unprecedented amount of rank in its membership shows the impor ance attached to the case at Washington In fact, the published detail, remarkable as it is, does not fully represent this unusual amount of rank. For the third member in order, given as Licut.-Col. LUGENBEEL, First Infantry, is really Col. Lugenbeen, Fifth Infantry, who got a recent promotion lineally through the promotion of MILES to b Brigadier-General. This fact also suggests that the composition of the court, though now first published, may really have been arranged long ago, and prior to the Decemer army changes.

At all events, we find one Brigadier-Gen eral, two Colonels, one Licutenant-Colonel two Majors, and three Captains on the court to try a colored cadet. We find these offieers taken from all parts of the country excopt the Military Academy. Of the nine members, only four are graduates of the Academy, the other five having been appointed to the army from the volunteer ser vice or from civil life. The President of the sourt, Gen. Milles, is a typical volunteer soldier, and his first service in the regular army was as Colonel of a colored regiment the Fortieth Infantry. Another member of the court, Capt. Chaic, also performed his first duty in the regular army as an officer of a colored regiment, the Thirty-eighth Infantry. The members of the court were all born in the North, except one in Mary land and another in the District of Columbia

The Judge Advocate, Major Asa B. GARD-NER, born in New York, was also an officer of volunteers, not a graduate of West Point, making six out of the ten detailed officers non-graduates. But the selection of Judge Advocate is also favorable to Whittaker as being that of an officer who has of late had, and still has, a bitter personal contro versy with Gen. SCHOFIELD regarding the conduct proper for members of military courts. Gen. Schoffeld was, perhaps, the central floure of the former WHITTAKER in vestigation, and in his annual report he took the anti-Whittaken side. It would be strange if the new Judge Advocate should enter the case with a great admiration for Gen. Schofteld's methods, or with a determination to endorse them.

In brief, if Codet WHITTARER, aided, as he will be, by able lawyers, cannot procure a vindication from the approaching court, he cannot hope for one from any court. But after all, the whole proceeding is the result of an unfortunate blunder. Had the senti ment of both officers and men at the Academy been less frankly and promptly avowed to be against WHITTAKER at the time of the alleged outrage on him, public opinion outside of the Academy would never have been made auxious lest he should fail to have a fair trial. In due time the proper court of board of inquiry would have examined the case, and precisely the same facts would have come out that did come out last spring. But the decision then would probably have been acquiesced in, and the present court martial might not have been required.

George H. Forster's Dilemma.

Near the close of his administration, Gen GRANT appointed STEWART L. WOODFORD to be the Attorney of the United States in this district for the ensuing four years. It was charged that this and other similar acts of the President were discourteous toward HAYES, who was soon to enter the White House. It is not certain whether Gen. Grant took this course because HAYES was not lawfully elected, or simply preferred to use his patronage himself rather than to throw it away upon his Fraudulent successor But, anyhow, Woodford's time is about up

There seems to be authority for the report that Woodford's place will be tendered to the Hon. George H. Forster, provided he will consent to accept it and quench his aspirations for the seat in the Senate now occupied by Mr. KERNAN. A lawyer and statesman of Mr. Forster's high aims, and who came so near being Governor during the Chicago Convention, might wisely hesi tate about taking an office like that of Attorney for this district, which, of late, has been so often filled by mere politicians. But he should remember that it was not always so. Several years ago Mr. WILLIAM M EVARTS was proud to be even Assistant Dis trict Attorney, and he frequently informed the newspaper reporters of the period that he was performing his duties in commendable style. Mr. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER (not of Lowell) took the office of District Attorney after he had won distinction as Attorney-

General under JACKSON, and had refused a seat in Polk's Cabinet. DANIEL S. DICKINson had shone as a Senator at Washington and had come as near to being President as Mr. FORSTER did to being Governor, and yet

he subsequently held the office of United States Attorney for this district. With these examples before him. Mr. FORSTER may think it not beneath his dignity to take this office. According to seetion 8 of article 3 of the Constitution of New York, this would vacate his seat in the State Senate. This would be of little consequence. because the election of a United States Senator would have previously occurred, thus determining Mr. FORSTER's fate in that matter. The enemies of Mr. FORSTER are reporting

that he is offering his vote as State Senator to certain candidates for Senator in Congress, on condition that they will support nim for District Attorney. There is more probability that the twelve or fifteen candidates for Woodpord's place are eager to help Forstru into the Sanate Chamber at Washington, provided he will withdraw his claims to be appointed District Attorney.

If Mr. FORSTER receives the support of Mr. CONKLING and is chosen Senator, he will probably give up his candidacy for the Attorneyship and resign from the State Senate. In the present short supply of offices, there would be an impropriety in his monopolizing three at once. The case of Gen. SCHUYLER may be cited against us. He held at the same time the three offices of Senator in Congress, State Senator, and member of the Council of Appointment Though Mr. FORSTER'S versatility of talents would enable him to fill any number of offices all at once, Gen. SCHUYLER's case would hardly be accepted as a precedent under our amended Constitutions.

Mr. FORSTER must make a choice. It rests with him to say whether he will remain in the Legislature, or accept a seat in the United States Senate, or consent to become the successor of STEWART L. WOODFORD.

Threatening to Bankrupt the Nation.

New claims for pensions are filed at the rate of from six to twelve thousand a month. Two months ago the number of live, original claims for pensions and arrearages already pending was 282,597. Mr. HUBBELL of Michigan has recently called the attention of Concress to the magnitude and importance of this question. He has shown that the first payment under the reckless arrearage bill passed by the Senate and House and signed by HAYES will be nearly two hundred and fifty million dollars. And still the claims come n, and are allowed by Congress in lumps.

On the first of last May there were upon the rolls two hundred and forty-nine thousand pensioners. Roughly, the annual excenditure required to pay these pensioners s forty millions. If the pending claims are allowed, the annual appropriation required will be nearly eighty millions. That is exdusive of all arrears; and it amounts every year to the interest at four per cent, on a capital sum of \$2,000,000,000, or considerably more than the national debt.

No wonder Congress is called upon to reflect! Until recently, bills granting pensions to individuals passed both Houses with as little ceremony as motions to dispense with the reading of the journals. As many as twenty of these bills have passed the House in a single minute. Any questioning, any objection, has brought upon the questioner or objector the odium of opposing the soldiers' interests. Indeed, the enormous responsibility which the Government has assumed is largely the result of the reckless bidding of both parties for the

Mr. HUBBELL, on the Republican side of the House, is not the first Congressman to take a reasonable view of the matter. Last May Mr. WARNER of Ohio, a Democrat and an ex-Brigadier-General, but not a Confederate Brigadier, presented some startling facts and figures, and made predictions which events since his speech have gone far to justify: Let Congress heed the warnings of Messrs. Hubbell and Warner. Of course the pension to the disabled soldier of the Union, and that to the widow and children of the killed soldier, are sacred debts. Nobody holds that such pensions ought not to be paid promptly, liberally, and ungrudgingly.

But how far do the legitimate obligations of the nation to its defenders coincide with the claims put in?

The celestial phenomena for the new year begin with a conjunction of the moon and Venus on Monday afternoon. This will be a very pretty sight just after sunset. Venus is secoming exceedingly brilliant, and her glowing orb will appear to hang like a diamond pendant below the silvery crescent. On Thursday evening the moon will pass near Jupiter, and the next night she will pay her respects to old Saturn, who is slowly drawing nearer to Jupiter, preparatory to their great conjunction in April. On Saturday night or early Sunday morning it will be Neptune's turn to receive a New Year's call from the moon, who, in spite o what the poets have said about her and Endymion, has proved herself, under the exacting eye of the astronomers, to be entirely impartial.

As the spectacle of true goodness always irritates the deprayed and the malicious, it is not surprising that persons of this class should seek to cast ridicule upon Deacon RICHAED SMITH of Cincinnati because of the peculiar conformation of his lower limbs.

He can console himself-if true goodness ever needs consolation-by reflecting that other great men have had a like experience. Tal-LEYRAND, for Instance. Deacon RICHARD SMITH has never, we believe, risen higher in the eccle stastical scale than the comparatively humble office from which he derives the title so inseperably and honorably associated with his name TALLEYRAND, on the other hand, had become a full-flown Bishop years before the memorable day on which M. REWBELL in a towering passion told him that his understanding was as warped as his feet, and then shied an inkstand at him A truly good man, such as Deacon RICHARD SMITH certainly is, and as TALLEYBAND, We fear, was not, can afford to disregard taunts and jeers. They rattle off his moral armor as harmlessly as bird shot off the hide of the rhi-But we would not like to be in the shoes of the man who should shy an inkstand at Deacon RICHARD SMITH, if the truly good man only had a fair chance to get at him.

As Congress has definitely decided to sanction and participate in the centennial celebration of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, it should pass, at an early day, Mr. Goode's resolution, or some substitute fo it, inviting France to join our country in the ceremonies. The wording of Mr. Goode's resolution may be susceptible of improvement, but the main thing is to take up the subject at once The celebration occurs in October; hence, in order to secure the presence of French ships, and also French troops, the invitation must go seasonably; and there is no reason whatever for further postponing it.

A Hint to Mechanics.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It has coursed to me that there is a good opportunity at this season for many good mechanics who are out of work and who are suffering for want of a little money, to star with a small kit of tools and go from house to house offering to repair the many children's toys which have be come broken during the holidays. A hammer, screw driver, gimle, and so on, would supply the necessary stock in tradef and a few hours work would earn a sum that would keep the wolf from the door.

J. W. L. WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE.

The all-absorbing topic in English politics continues to be the Irish question. The Ministry hold Cabinet councils at which the measures to be introduced upon the assembling of Parliament on Thursday next are discussed. An official announcement is made that, unless matters in Ireland improve, the Government, simultaneously with a statement of the princi ples of the new Land bill, will ask for the sus pension of the Habeas Corpus act. By making public the contents of the proposed bill, the Government evidently hopes to quiet the Land quiet a turbulent child. Instead of punishing it for crimes already committed, she endeavors to soothe its refractory spirit by a promise of sugar plums. The promise may have a temporary effect, but the next time the child is naughty more candy will be required. This weak conduct can have but one result—the com-

plete spoiling of the child. Were the matter not so serious, it would be amusing to watch the horror with which some members of the Cabinet set their faces against a policy of coercion. When it is remembered that the whole power of the Land Leaguers consists in cocreion, the soft heartedness of Messrs. Bright and Chamberlain may be fairly described as sickly sentiment. The assassinations and severe kind of coercion on the part of the Parncilites. Why should they not be treated to a dose of their favorite medicine? The London journals which sympathize most strongly with the Government on other subjects point out that onciliation never has had, and never will have, the desired effect upon the sons of Erin.

When the Irish Church was disestablished it was hoped that Ireland was permanently pacified; but no. Farmers who have been contented for years suddenly become full of grievances upon the establishment of a branch of the Land casue in their neighborhood. The League itself is under the control of a few men. Incarerate these leaders, and the whole fabric will fall to pieces like a house of cards. The maority of the populace care nothing for the League; indeed, it is said that the money suberiptions by which it is supported are forced from the people. Coercion, therefore, if applied to the heads of the movement, will free the bulk of the population from a very irksome tyranny, which is none the less tyrannical be cause one of its methods of inducing submission to its sway is making promises which can pover be fulfilled.

The alacrity with which the commands of the League are complied with is remarkable. It used to be a difficult matter to coerce Irishmen. but now they seem to have lost backbone When the directors of the Cork Steam Packet Company were ordered not to ship a certain consignment of cattle, they had not the courage o resist the insolent dictation.

The districts of the county of Cheshire which produce England's supply of sait have been startled by the sudden sinking of large areas of land, in some parts to the depth of one hundred feet. In the vicinity of Northwich, houses, salt factories, and their machinery have been destroyed, but luckily no lives have been lost By this subsidence of the land large bodies of water were forced upward through holes in the ground to the height of thirty feet. This unexsected "fall in real estate" is easily accounted for. For centuries the salt beds in the neighborhood of Northwich have been worked, and as is the case in coal mines, large pillars have been left to support the roof. The salt, when dug out, is dissolved in water in order to leanse it. After this the water has to be got rid of by the process of evaporation. Long ago t was found to be a cheap method to partially flood the mines and permit the water to become impregnated with saline particles, and then to nump out the ready-made brine. No precauions were taken to preserve the pillars, and in the course of years they have gradually melted away. No little alarm is felt in several towns which are undermined in the same manner.

The floods from which most parts of England suffered last year have doubtless con tributed to this disaster. This fact has been prought into prominence by a deputation which ecently waited on a member of the Governent to petition him to devise a remedy for this superfluity of water. No less than seven severe nundations devastated the low lying portions of Leicestershire in the course of 1880. The deputation laid their misfortunes at the door of the effective system of drainage now considered necessary to good farming. The rain is so quickly conveyed to the rivers that they are no ongerable to discharge their contents with sufficient celerity. The President of the Local Government Board was unable to suggest any remedy and pointed out that the expense of enlarging the natural outlets of the floods would be enormous.

The electric light is making some headway

in London. Its newest application is the light ng up of one of the faces of the Westminster clock, and the result is very favorable. Two of the underground railroad stations have been supplied with the light, but here they are not coked upon with much favor, as the want of height in the stations brings the glare almost upon a level with the faces of those waiting for rains. But the termini of the larger railroad are convenient places for the new light, and the Great Western Company is about to illuminate Paddington Station with it. The city authoriies are willing to give the inventors every chance of showing their rival lights, and diferent districts have been assigned to the Jablochkoff, the Brush, and the Siemens companies, with a view of testing their respective claims. The authorities of the city of London and the various gas companies which supply that portion of the capital have never been on cordial terms on account of the cavalier manner in which the gas men have behaved to their customers. This ill feeling will induce the city to give the electricians every opportunity to spread themselves, and if they do not profit by their opportunity it will be because their system of lighting is not yet equal to what is demanded of it. The town of Blackpool has for some time lighted a portion of its streets in this way, and Liverpool is going to give electricity a trial. It is also proposed to illuminate the Rhine by means of it, in order to render navigation by night possible. It would seem however, that the methods of lighting at present in use are far from having reached perfection and a new light, the invention of a Mr. Swan is highly spoken of by the London press. The Swan light, as has been shown by experiment. can be very easily managed. The light is more like that of gas, and it is predicted that in a very few years most houses of the better class will be lighted by the new method.

The Lord Mayor of London has opened the partors of the Mansion House to the Bread Reform League, who propose to wage war against the present love of white bread and substitute for it an article resembling our Graham bread. The Leaguers set forth that the passion for white bread is a "mischievous delusion." It is a cause of rickets in children and is responsible for the prevalence of bad teeth. It is, moreover, very wasteful. The new bread, which is to be called wheat-meal bread s to be made by a process invented by a Dr. Mozfit. Among its many advantages its cheapness will not be the least. Twenty-five cents worth of the new broad will provide a wholesome and substantial meal for nine adults. It contains forty per cent, more nourishment, three times more flesh-forming, fifty times more heat-forming, and three times more bone-forming material than twenty-five cents worth of beef. One would think that these advantages would at once recommend the new oaf to the people, but the Leaguers have discovered that the bakers cannot be trusted to introduce this article of food to their patrons. Already many people ask to be supplied with brown bread, and are imposed upon with a heavy, indigestible lump, flinty on the outside and half-baked in the centre, the ingredients of which are flour and a handful or so of coarse bran. The League therefore ask the Lord Mayor to give them the influence of his name by way of aiding them in an appeal to the public for support to enable them to appoint inspectors whose duty it shall be to see that the consumer

is not swindled. The report that two wealth undergraduates

have started a roulette table at Oxford, and that ooth graduates and undergraduates freely patronize the fascinating game, is calculated to strike terror into the hearts of parents and guardians, and indignation into those of the University authorities. Now that the proctors and their buildogs are put upon the scent, it is not likely that the precocious gamesters will long succeed in fostering the love of games of chance among rich young Englishmen. In Mr. Trevelyan's "Early History of Charles Fox" occurs the following passage, which vige orously portrays the extent to which the vice

had spread in the days of which he writes: had aprend in the days of which he writes:
thambing in all its forms was the rather a professlatham a maxime to the leaders of the Lendon world. Trise
and sortid details of the reamy stables and the bill disconner's back partor perpetually filled their thoughts
and exercised their pens, to the exclusion of worthler
and more varied themes.

"No royal visitor,
world Right, "stayed here from Saturday till Tuesday,
We had quinze every might, and all night, but I could get
mone of his miney." A lad fresh from his public school,
if he was known to have parents who leved him wellenough to stand between him and dishonor, walked into
a London club like a cali eyed by butchers.

Naples correspondents set forth the advantages of Pozzuoli as a winter resort for consumptive invalids. It is said that some of the most celebrated physicians in Naples have found that their patients derive more benefit from a sojourn there than from a winter passed in Sicily or elsewhere. The value of this announcement is lessened by the consideration that there are no good physicians in Naples. The native medical men are decidedly below par in their knowledge of the healing art, and the foreign doctors who have settled there are not much better. Pozzuoli is prettily situated on the coast of the Gulf of Baine, and lies between the sea and the semi-extinct crater called Solfatara, with which all visitors to southern Italy are familiar. From this place emanate noxlously sulphurous fumes which are decldedly detrimental to healthy lungs. Within half a mile and separated from it by a low bill lies the Lago D'Agnano, one of the most pestiferous spots in Italy. When the wind blows from the north and northwest Pozzueli has the full benefit of a mixture of nalaria and sulphur, which may be beneficial to consumptive visitors, but is decidedly the reverse to the natives, as is shown by the death rate of the town-28 per 1,000. Invalids who and it necessary to winter in the south of Italy had much better pay a visit to Salerno or Amalfi. which are within two hours (by rail) of Naples. The scenery is unsurpassed, and the coast is sheltered from the tramontane winds by the lofty range of mountains which lies at the back of Castellamare. The cost of living is very small, the inhabitants are civil, and the drive along the shore between the lefty hills and the sea is one of the finest in the world.

The uninitiated will be surprised that four nedical gentlemen of great renown in veterinary and surgical circles should sit in solemn conclave discussing the serious question whether a bulldog's ears have been " faked" or not. To the outside world this appears an uninteresting question, but, according to the speeches which were delivered on the occasion, it is one that tends to shake the bulldog world to its very centre. The buildog is an animal altogether devoid of personal attractions—so much so that, to be a success among buildors, the particular pecimen must be remarkably ugly. His avocation has, to a great extent, passed away, for bull baiting is now a forbidder sport, even in countries which Mr. Bergh's does not cover. But, like everything else in this practical world, the bulldog has his uses. Where he is not engaged in scaring little boys out of tempting orchards or holding on to the calves of somebody, he is sent to dog shows and placed in a cage marked "Dangerous." In order to gain a prize he must be the ugliest buildog present, and it is not unusual among the owners of buildogs, whose morality is not very high, to assist nature, This is called "faking." It is customary to score the ears of the dog, and make them look as if he had fought and suffered. At a recent show at Birmingham a bulldog, named Monarch, which had until that occasion enjoyed a monopoly of prizes, was ruled out by the judges because he had been "faked." The owner objected, and a court martial of four distinguished physiians was appointed. They have decided that Monarch was naturally ugly and that although the marks upon his ears may have been caused by the thumb nail of some person, there was not the slightest evidence that they had been made by his master with malice prepense.

The now famous leader, Richter, is going to produce next spring Wagner's "Meistersinger" in London, with the same artistic resources he made use of last year in the production of " Lohengrin."

The King of Italy, travelling under the inognito of Count of Pavia, has been spending a few days in Paris, and is going to visit England, where he is to be the guest of the Prince

of Wales at Sandringham. The Paris season does not begin till after the Christmas and New Year holidays, and society and artistic news from the French capital is accordingly very meagre. The Tuesdays at the Theatre Français have already begun, however, and the stranger is thus enabled to pass in review the whole of the Paris beau monde from the Duc d'Aumale, the Princess de Sagan. and the Baroness de Rothschild downward. The origin of these Tuesdays is described by Paris correspondent: "Only a year or two ago," he writes, "the Tuesdays of the Français were like its Wednesdays or its Mondays. The English tourist and the bourgeois were having t all to themselves, till a kind of John the Baptist of fashion, the Vicomte de Ganay, discove ered that the closing of the Italian Opera had eft society without rendezvous on certain nights. One night in the winter week was not filled up. On summer Saturdays, of course, there was the Cirque: on Fridays Besseièvre, and so on; but on Tuesdays in winter there was really nothing to do. He went straight to M. Perrin of the Français, and laid this serious state of things before him. M. Perrin immediately saw the gravity of the situation, and between them they instituted the Tuesdays. The whisper went round society, and within a month every seat in the house was taken for all the Tuesdays of the year. A little more, and we shall book for a lifetime, and, in more senses than one, leave our seats at the Français when we die."

The Transvani Dutch.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I notice with great delight that The Sun espouses the cause of the patriotic Transvasi Dutch against the British, those old enemies of independence. I am satisfied there is no juster claim upon the sympathy of Americans, who once had to bear the British yoke. Let us not forget that there were thousands of these very same Hollanders, the descendants of the Dutch settlers of our country, especially in New York and New Jersey, who shouldered the mus-ket in 1776 sgainst the British lion, and brought him to in New York and New Jersey, who shouldered the musket in 1776-sgainst the British lion, and brought him teterms, as their forefathers had done a century before,
when they broomed him off the occasi and burned his
attest in the old story over a sain. Might above rightle
intuition is one to the reast British has no right
in the old story over a sain. Might above rightle
furnands facults. Transvani republic. The British lion
gobbied up these lands, just as be gobbied up a few years
previous the diamond fields in South Africa, by main
force, on the meat filmsy pretences. The facts are that
the British Government at Cape Town, with this object
in view, succeeded in 1876 in getting a petition signed
by one-intil of the Dutch Boers, asking for annexation, under the pretence of protection against
the Kriffer and other of their savage neighbors. Ninetentils of the population protested against any annexation, and vives, both in 1877 and 1878, sent a committee of
the Joulest, and Edward W. Rok iall arreaded and right
of high treason avainst the British crown, to the Brittal Government, and simultaneously to the German,
French, and Dutch Governments, with full power to
protest against this unasked-for annexation, only obtained by trand and missegreemiation of the facts. Bolt
times this committee gave the British Government fair
warmen that they never would alumit to Britan-lie,
and warmen that they never would alumit to Britan-lie,
and only first for independence, as their forefathers
had done against the Spanish and English in the sixteenth, eventuenth and eighteenth centuries both in the
old and New World, if they could not get their free and
it, liain English, their property being followed the protest timestice. The British should remember this
from oil experience, and if they have forgotten it, the
stirily Dutch Boers of the Transvaal will leach them
this lesson once again and show them conclusively that
flight there are the property being followed the saintiles in the world of social, political, and freedom and independence! My youngest brother was one of the committee mentioned shore. From him I have the above facts. God birss the Traisvant Dutch in their heroid striggle for liberty and independence and give them a happy New Year! A Hollsborn August.

A Good Suggestion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I WAS TO THE EDITOR OF THE SON-SO: I was much interested in reading about the transe experiments of Dr. Beard. But it would interest me beyond expression if miniar experiments could be tried by Dr. Bleard upon "the best subject known to psychologists anywhere"—our distinguished tellow citizen of a subject in the country of th